

Corporation for NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE

For more than a decade, the Corporation for National and Community Service—through its Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America programs—has mobilized a new generation of engaged citizens. This year, more than 1.8 million individuals of all ages and backgrounds will serve through those programs to help thousands of national and community nonprofit organizations, faith-based groups, schools, and local agencies meet local needs in education, the environment, public safety, homeland security, and other critical areas. National and community service programs work closely with traditional volunteer organizations to broaden, deepen, and strengthen the ability of America's volunteers to contribute not only to their communities, but also to our nation.

SENIOR CORPS

Each year Senior Corps taps the skills, talents, and experience of more than 500,000 Americans age 55 and older to meet a wide range of community challenges through three main programs: RSVP, the Foster Grandparent Program, and the Senior Companion Program. RSVP volunteers help local police departments conduct safety patrols, participate in environmental projects, provide intensive educational services to children and adults, and respond to natural disasters, among many other activities. Foster Grandparents serve one-on-one as tutors and mentors to young people with special needs. Senior Companions help homebound seniors and other adults maintain independence in their own homes. Senior Corps also administers the Special Volunteer Program, which engages Americans in projects related to public safety, homeland security, and disaster preparedness and relief.

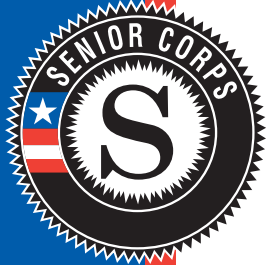
AMERICORPS

AmeriCorps provides opportunities for more than 70,000 Americans each year to give intensive service to their communities

and country through three programs: AmeriCorps*State and National, AmeriCorps*VISTA, and AmeriCorps*NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps). AmeriCorps members recruit, train, and supervise community volunteers, tutor and mentor youth, build affordable housing, teach computer skills, clean parks and streams, run after-school programs, help communities respond to disasters, and build the capacity of nonprofit groups to become self-sustaining, among many other activities. In exchange for a year of full-time service, AmeriCorps members earn an education award of \$4,725 that can be used to pay for college or graduate school, or to pay back qualified student loans. Since 1994 more than 400,000 Americans have served in AmeriCorps.

The great majority of AmeriCorps members serve through AmeriCorps*State and National, which operates in a decentralized manner that gives a significant amount of responsibility to states and local nonprofit groups. Roughly three-quarters of all AmeriCorps grant funding goes to Governor-appointed state service commissions, which award competitive

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grants to nonprofit groups, who recruit AmeriCorps members to respond to local needs. Most of the remainder of the grant funding is distributed by the Corporation directly to multi-state and national organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, the American Red Cross, City Year, Teach for America, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America through a competitive grants process. AmeriCorps*VISTA, focuses the efforts of approximately 6,500 members each year on eradicating poverty and helping to meet the needs of people living in low-income communities nationwide. AmeriCorps*NCCC is a team-based, residential program designed specifically for young adults between the ages of 18 and 24. Approximately 1,100 members serve in AmeriCorps*NCCC each year.

LEARN AND SERVE AMERICA

Learn and Serve America provides an "on-ramp" to a lifetime of civic engagement for approximately 1.3 million students each year. The program awards grants to state education agencies, schools, nonprofit groups, and institutions of higher education to engage students in service activities linked to academic achievement. This type of learning, called service-learning, increases academic achievement while developing in young people the habits of citizenship. As part of its goal of making student service and service-learning a common practice across the country, Learn and Serve America provides resources to teachers, faculty members, schools, and community groups. In addition, Learn and Serve America sponsors the Presidential Freedom Scholarships, which recognize outstanding community service each year by high school juniors and seniors.

OTHER PROGRAMS

Other grant programs and special initiatives under the Corporation's umbrella include: Next Generation Grants, which provide seed money to help startup organizations that have not

previously received funds from the Corporation plan and implement new service programs that have the potential to become national in scope; Challenge Grants, a matching grant program designed to help nonprofit organizations secure previously untapped sources of private funds in order to build sustainable service and volunteer programs; King Day of Service Grants, which support community organizations in their efforts to engage local citizens in service on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday; and the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, which presents the President's Volunteer Service Award to citizens of all ages and backgrounds who have demonstrated a sustained commitment to service.

PRESIDENT'S CALL TO SERVICE

In his 2002 State of the Union address, President Bush called on all Americans to devote the equivalent of at least two years of their lives—or 4,000 hours—to service and volunteering, and he created USA Freedom Corps as a way to promote service and coordinate volunteer opportunities offered through Federal programs. The USA Freedom Corps web site, www.volunteer.gov, hosts an online clearinghouse of volunteer opportunities nationwide for Americans interested in engaging in their community. Together with USA Freedom Corps, the Corporation for National and Community Service is fostering a culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility and helping all Americans answer the President's Call to Service.

MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the Corporation or any of its programs, visit www.nationalservice.gov or call 202-606-5000.

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